

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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DEPARTMENT PASS HEW, AID

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, EG, TGEN
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER OF HEALTH

REF: (A) CAIRO 2941, (B) EVANS/ RICHMOND TELCON (2/25/76)

1. SCIATT AND AID HEALTH AND POPULATION OFFICER DR. M. SHUTT MET WITH MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR. IBRAHIM BADRAN AND UNDERSECRETARY DR. RAMSIS GOMAA AT MINISTER'S REQUEST ON FEBRUARY 23. UNDERSECRETARY DR. SAAD FUAD WAS PRESENT FOR PART OF MEETING. DR. BADRAN RAISED QUESTIONS AND COMMENTED ON SEVERAL ELEMENTS OF U.S. HEALTH ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH COOPERATION PROGRAMS. MINISTER MENTIONED SUBJECTS OF (A) FOLLOW-ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) TEAM, (B) ASSISTANCE TO HOSPITALS (KASR EL AINY, AL GALAA), (C) ECFMG AND (D) PROJECT HOPE.

2. RE EMS: MOH WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FOLLOW ON TEAM COME OUT ASAP; MINISTER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD TEAM WAS PROMISED FOR JANUARY. ALSO, MORE TRAINING MATERIALS ARE NEEDED TO ALLOW CLASS EXPANSION (REF A). HE WAS TOLD EMBASSY AND USAID/C ENDORSE HAVING FOLLOW ON TEAM HERE. NOTE: MINISTER NOW INFORMED FOLLOW ON TEAM EXPECTED IN APRIL PER REF B.

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2. RE HOSPITAL ASSISTANCE: HE INQUIRED ON FOLLOW UP TO MOH REQUEST FOR HELP FOR KASR EL AINY AND AL GALAA HOSPITALS. THE AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN CONTACTED THROUGH AID; SOME CONSULTANT SERVICES HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO LOOK AT NEEDS OF BOTH HOSPITALS IN MORE GENERAL FACILITIES RENOVATION REVIEW.

3. RE ECFMG: MINISTER ASKED HOSPITALS FOR CLARIFICATION OF ECFMG SITUATION. TWO ASPECTS OF PROBLEM WERE EXPLAINED, (A) EFFECT OF NEW LEGISLATION ON ISSUANCE OF VISAS AND (B) ON TRAINING PROGRAMS WHERE PHYSICIANS ARE TO BE GIVEN PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE U.S.; BADRAN SAID THAT HE WAS NOT NOW APPROVING REQUESTS BY EGYPTIAN PHYSICIANS TO GO TO THIRD COUNTRIES TO TAKE ECFMG, AND, IN MOST CASES, PHYSICIANS WHOM HE WISHED TO SEND TO U.S. UNDER PROGRAMS LIKE AID PARTICIPANT TRAINING OR HEW-SUPPORTED PROJECT HOPE VISITING SCIENTIST PROGRAM WOULD ONLY BE EXPECTED TO BE OBSERVERS AND NOT ENGAGE IN ANY WAY IN PRACTICE OF MEDICINE. HE HOPED SUCH A CERTIFICATION BY MOH COULD SPEED UP PROCESSING OF PHYSICIANS BY PROJECT HOPE (SPECIFIC COMMENTS RE PROJECT HOPE REPORTED SEPTEL). BADRAN WAS TOLD THAT BECAUSE OF NEWNESS OF LEGISLATION, VARIOUS QUESTIONS OF INTERPRETATION WERE STILL UNSETTLED. FYI: HOPE DIRECTOR DR. BENNETT SAYS HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO PROCESS PHYSICIANS NOW BECAUSE MANY U.S. UNIVERSITIES AND MEDICAL TRAINING CENTERS ARE REFUSING TO ACCEPT FOREIGN PHYSICIANS, EVEN WHEN NOMINATED BY GOVERNMENTS UNDER FORMAL TRAINING PROGRAMS, UNTIL HEW CLARIFIES CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO SUCH TRAINING UNDER NEW LEGISLATION AND/OR DEVELOPS EXEMPTIONS. END FYI.

4. WE SUGGEST THAT POSSIBILITY OF INTERIM GUIDELINES AND SOME SORT OF EXEMPT STATUS FOR FOREIGN DOCTORS BROUGHT TO U.S. UNDER OFFICIAL AUSPICES BE EXPLORED. PRESENT UNCERTAINTY COULD AFFECT USAID PARTICIPANT TRAINING PROGRAM HERE AS WELL AS PROJECT HOPE.

5. COMMENT: DURING THE MEETING BADRAN WAS FRIENDLY BUT, FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIM, UNUSUALLY CRITICAL. HE HAS ALWAYS FULLY SUPPORTED AND PUT MUCH PERSONAL EFFORT INTO U.S./EGYPT S & T AND HEALTH COOPERATION. THE CRITICISMS HE EXPRESSED PROBABLY REFLECT FOR THE MOST PART HIS DESIRE TO SEE THINGS MOVE AS SMOOTHLY AND RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE FOR PURELY PROFESSIONAL REASONS. HE MAY ALSO FEEL PARTICULAR CONCERN, BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH U.S. PROGRAMS, WHEN THESE DO NOT REACH HIS EXPECTATIONS. BADRAN HAS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND S & T COOPERATION IN IMPROVING HEALTH CONDITIONS. AS MINISTER, VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF THIS VALUE HAS TAKEN ON MORE IMPORTANCE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. PLEASE RESPOND PROMPTLY ON CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY DR. BADRAN AND PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH ANSWERS AND COMMENTS WE MAY RELAY TO HIM.
EILTS

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